

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 27, 2003. Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 12 are in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to correct formal matters only. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(g) as allegedly having unacceptable top margins. Applicant submits herewith a Letter With Proposed Drawing Changes. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(g) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,836 to Westwick et al. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 12-14 were rejected under Section 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,677 to Suzuki. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,517,324 to Fite, Jr. et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit independent claims 1, 6, and 12 are patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to the local area network and a public switched telephone network. The method comprises collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data

terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, and storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory. Facsimile image information is generated on the client data terminal by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal. An information transfer request is created on the client data terminal for requesting transmission of the facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to the public switched telephone network. The method also comprises sending the information transfer request from the client data terminal to a communications controller, and transmitting the information transfer request from the communications controller to the called data terminal through the local area network upon a completion of the sending step.

Westwick et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a method for minimizing the transfer of data in a networked distributed data processing system having a network host. The method uploads and temporarily stores an information unit in a sending controller device, and controls the direct transmission of an information unit between a sending and a receiving controller device. Facsimile documents, digitized voice information, still-motion video or full-motion video frame sequences are generally referred to as an "information unit" (col. 1, lines 34-37). The information units are stored in the controller until a data director determines that it is time for them to be sent to their recipient users (col. 4, lines 14-17). The data director maintains a directory indicating the location of all of the information units in the network (col. 9, lines 30-32).

Suzuki, as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile device comprising local area

network communication controlling means, exchanging network communication controlling means, and telephone number converting table means. A telephone number conversion table represents the relationship between the telephone number referred to at the time of connection through the general exchanging network and the IP address referred to at the time of connection through the local area networks and the internet. Each element of the table is composed of an ID for identifying each respective element, a telephone number, and the corresponding IP address (col. 4, lines 1-6 and 9-12).

However, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a method comprising collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, and storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory, as recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion of facsimile image information being generated on the client data terminal by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal, as also recited in independent claim 1. In fact, the cited art does not teach or suggest use of information sets of communication capabilities as described in the instant application at all. One non-limiting example of such an information set is described on page 22, lines 9-17, and shown in Fig. 6.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art. Independent claims 6 and 12 are believed to be patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least similar reasons.

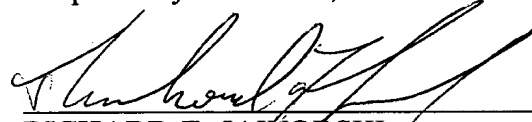
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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